(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) Review of the Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process and changes in it are made from time to time keeping in view various factors like rising prices, demand and supply position of various commodities, balance of payment position etc.

Storage of Rice for Export by FCI

2078. SHRI. V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has stored huge quantities of rice for export at Madras, Kakinada and Vizag ports;

(b) details thereof;

(c) when will this rice be exported; and

(d) what are the total exports of foodgrains expected by FCI this year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. FCI has moved some stock of rice ex-North to various ports for sale to the Private & Public Sector exporters who have purchased rice from FCI and have started exporting rice from Indian Ports.

(d) In view of the comfortable stock position in the Central Pool, Government has authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export upto 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of fine and superfine rice (since decided to be increased to 3 million tonnes) during the year 1995-96.

Amendment of Child Labour Act

2079. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Child Labour Act to eliminate employment of children in hazardous industries; and

(b) if so, the details of changes/amendments proposed to be made in the Child Labour Act for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, to make it more effective, is under consideration of the Government.

Reduction of Coal linkages for Power Stations

2080. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Standing Linkage Committee for Coal in a meeting held in September, 1995 had reduced coal linkages for all Power Stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of reduction in allocation in the quarter October-December 1995 vis-a-vis July-September 1995 for Power Plants located in West Bengal;

(d) whether the minimum coal stock position as per norms is maintained in the Power Plants after the reduced allocation; and

(e) how long the reduced allocation is expected to continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The overall linkages of coal to the power utilities for the quarter October-December, 1995 were more than the linkages given to them for the quarter July-September, 1995. The present linkages to all power houses in the country have been sanctioned taking into account the recommendations made by Ministry of Power and within the overall quantity earmarked for the power sector.